To What Extent is Maniac Magee a Fact and/or Opinion Text?

Maniac Magee is a fiction text based on facts, nevertheless it has some ideas that are true and can be proved. Some examples are food products and actual places that exist in the world, even though Jerry Spinelli exaggerates things that are impossible in nature. In conclusion I can say Maniac Magee is a text that has more fiction elements even though it has non-fiction elements that exist and can be proved.

Some food products in Maniac Magee actually exist like Butterscotch Krimpets. The part of the book Maniac Magee that tells me about Butterscotch Krimpets and that they are something to eat is “For the rest of the afternoon, they cruised around town, talking and eating Krimpets”. (Spinelli, p.85). Butterscotch Krimpets exist and are made by the brand TASTYKAKE®. Even though Krimpets are made by the brand TASTYKAKE® they can also be homemade. Butterscotch Krimpets were released in 1927, many years before the book was published or the story took place. In conclusion I can say that Butterscotch Krimpets are one of the ideas that are true and can be proved.

Sycamore Street is where the Beale´s family live, but it exists in various places of the world. The part of the book that tells me the Beale´s live there is “ Seven twenty-eight Sycamore. ” . (Spinelli, p.13). One place Sycamore Street is located is in Sycamore Street, Islington, LONDON, EC1V. There is even another place were Sycamore Street exists it is 712 Sycamore Street, Rocky Mount, NC, 27801. It might seem unbelievable but there is still another place with the name Sycamore Street the address is 178 Sycamore Street, Albany, NY, 12209. There are even more places with the name Sycamore Street but above are the three I chose. Finally I can say that this is another element of Maniac Magee that is true and I can actually prove it.

The eight-inch cockroach Jerry Spinelli talks about in Maniac Magee is a fiction element which I found on “They say he kept an eight-inch cockroach on a leash ”. (Spinelli, p. 1). It is a fiction element because the Southern Wood Roach which is found in Pennsylvania is seven to eight inches long and according to the places where I found Sycamore Street is located (Sycamore Street is in Two Mills were the story takes place) Pennsylvania is not one of them. Also it is impossible to keep a cockroach on a leash as the book says Maniac did. Hissing Cockroaches from Madagascar can be kept as pets but not with a leash and they are 1.5 to 3 inches long, not as big as the ones Jerry Spinelli describes in the book. In conclusion I can say this is a fiction element that is impossible to happen.

Concluding my essay I would say that deciding what is true is really important even with books, for example anyone who doesn’t know could say that Butterscotch Krimpets are a fiction element and that eight-inch cockroaches could exist anywhere in the world. Even though I would say Maniac Magee is more a fiction text based on facts it has elements that can be proved, that is why I say Maniac Magee is a fiction text based on facts but with non-fiction elements.